

Island; he mentions, in addition to the single specimen in the Lawrence collection, four specimens in his own collection, all received from the light-houses in the month of September.

I shot my first and only specimen in a low second growth tract of oaks at Lake Grove, Suffolk County, on Sept. 20, 1893. It is a young male.

Sylvania mitrata.—Since my previous record of this bird (Auk, Vol. IX, p. 306), I have secured another specimen, an immature female, in almost the identical spot in Parkville where I shot the first one, which was an adult male. The first specimen was killed April 30, 1892, as it alighted on the track of a railway which passes through the woods; the second one was shot May 15, 1893, as it was feeding in the lower limbs of the trees.

Mr. Dutcher has two specimens in his collection, one of which he has recorded (Auk, Vol. VI, p. 139); the other was killed at Shelter Island, May 16, 1891.

Mr. J. C. Knoess, the taxidermist of Riverhead, has one very fine specimen in his collection.

These, with two specimens in the collection of the Long Island Historical Society (Auk, Vol. X, p. 277) and two in the Lawrence collection, make in all nine recorded specimens from Long Island.—ARTHUR H. HOWELL, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Stray Notes from Massachusetts.—*Branta canadensis*.—Ponkapog Pond, Mass., Oct. 20, 1893. First Canada Geese seen in this locality this season; six birds. The next noted were twenty, on the 25th. These last were very tired.

Larus argentatus smithsonianus.—Oct. 22. A large movement of American Herring Gulls towards the southwest; weather fine and warm. White and gray plumaged birds were noted passing high up over the pond; one flock of twenty-two were flying in form of a harrow. The flocks varied from three or four birds to forty each. Between three and four hundred were estimated to have passed.

Charitonetta albeola.—Oct. 30. The first Buffle-heads this season were noted here to-day; no others have been seen, which is very unusual. Three birds noted up to Dec. 1st.

Fulica americana.—Sept. 19. The first American Coots, eighteen, seen to-day; six were shot. It is an unusually early date for them here.

Dafila acuta.—Sept. 21. An immature bird shot to-day.

Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis.—Sept. 22. Eight Fish-hawks passed over the pond to-day.

Spatula clypeata.—Sept. 25. One immature Shoveller Duck shot to-day.

Philohela minor.—Oakham, Mass., Oct. 15, 1893. Mr. J. F. Brown of Chelsea, Mass., informs me that in company with Mr. John Stone of Oakham he visited daily the Woodcock grounds in the vicinity of Oakham for fifteen consecutive days, commencing on the above date, but

failed to find only a very few birds, although the grounds were extensive. Mr. Stone has shot over this ground for twenty-five years and this is the only year in his experience that no defined flight of Woodcock has been noted by him. From what I have learned I am of the belief that the flight in Massachusetts passed during the last few days in September and first few days in October.

Sterna tschegrava.—Cape Cod, Mass., Sept. 20, 1893. Two Caspian Terns recently came into my possession which were taken on or about the above date. Both birds proved to be females on dissection, one being an adult, the other immature.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Effect of the Great Cyclone of August 26–27 upon Certain Species of Birds.—The cyclone which devastated the coast of South Carolina was the most destructive which has ever been recorded. About 3 o'clock P. M., a Frigate Bird (*Fregata aquila*) was seen, and shot at twice but unfortunately was not secured. A few days after the cyclone I made a trip to Long Island, S. C., which lies east of Sullivan's Island, and saw and examined countless numbers of *Puffinus major* dead upon the beach. Only a single example of *Puffinus auduboni* was observed, while a great many *Pelecanus fuscus* were found strewn along the beach for miles. Royal Terns (*Sterna maxima*) were shot at Barnwell C. H., which is about eighty-five miles from the sea.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents are requested to write briefly and to the point. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications.]

Popular vs. Scientific Ornithology.

EDITORS OF 'THE AUK':—

Dear Sirs,—Mr. Brewster's gentle admonition in 'The Auk' of October last (Vol. X, p. 365) seems to call for an explanation of my position. The reasons I turn more readily to a literary than to a scientific channel of expression are several, not to speak of the fact that I am naturally of literary rather than scientific proclivities. There is, first, my great desire to bring into the lives of others the delights to be found in the study of Nature, which necessitates the using of an unscientific publication, and a title that shall attract, even though it may, in a measure, "ambush" my subject.